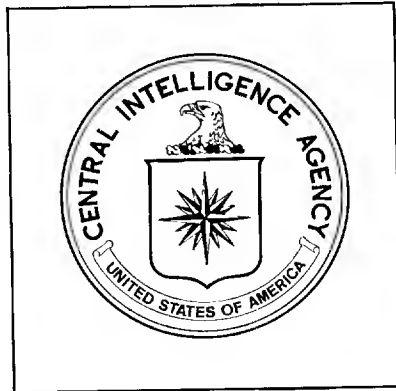


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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Afghanistan

Leftist Resentment Toward President Daoud

Afghan leftists reportedly are angry at President Daoud, who recently has removed many of them from influential government and army positions while repairing his strained relations with his Mohammadzai clan and moving to restore its influence. The Mohammadzai traditionally have played a central role in governing the country.

Members of the country's main leftist group, "Parcham" ("Banner"), are said to feel Daoud has betrayed them. Although we have not yet received any reports that they are plotting against Daoud, [REDACTED] their mood is "militant" and that they are determined not to let Daoud "get away with" his moves against them. Leftist military officers played a key role in the coup that brought Daoud to power in 1973.

We have no information yet on Moscow's attitude toward Daoud's moves against the left. In keeping with traditional Afghan policy, Daoud will try to avoid antagonizing his Soviet neighbor. Afghanistan receives nearly all its military hardware from the USSR and also has important trade and aid ties with the Soviets. (SECRET NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON)

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